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American Heritage Dictionary

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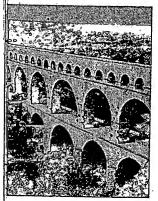
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viaduct Part of a 1st-century B.C. Roman aqueduct in Nîmes, France



vibraphone



viburnum

the genus *Vicia*, having pinnate leaves and small, usually purplish flowers. [ME fecche < OFr. veche < Lat. vicia.] vetch-ling (vech'ling) n. Any of several plants of the genus Lathyrus, having pinnate leaves, slender tendrils, and small, variously colored flowers.

vet·er·an (vět'ər-ən, vět'rən) n. 1. One who has a long record of service in a given activity or capacity. 2. One who has been a member of the armed forces. —modifier: a veteran actor; veteran benefits. [Fr. vétéran < Lat. veteranus < vetus,

Veterans Day n. November 11, a holiday celebrated in memory of the armistice ending World War I in 1918 and in honor of veterans of the armed services.

veter-i-nar-i-an (vet'ar-a-nar'e-an, vet'ra-) n. A person

trained and authorized to treat animals medically.

veter: nary (vět'ər-ə-něr'ē, vět'rə-) adj. Of, pertaining to, or being the science of the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of animals, esp. domestic animals. -n, pl. -les. A veterinarian [Lat. veterinarius, pertaining to beasts of burden. veterinus < veterinae, beasts of burden.] veterinary medicine n. The medical science of the diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases and injuries. veterinary surgeon n. A veterinarian.

vet-i-ver (vet'-y-vər) n. 1. A grass, Vetiveria zizanioides, of tropical Asia, cultivated for its aromatic roots that yield an oil used in perfumery. 2. The roots of the vetiver. [Fr. < Tamil vettiveru.]

vet-i-vert (vet'a-vurt') n. The essential oil of the vetiver. [Alteration of VETIVER.]

ve to (ve'to) n., pl. toes. 1. a. The vested power or constitutional right of one branch or department of government, esp. the right of a chief executive, to reject a bill passed by a legislative body and thus preyent or delay its enactment into law. b. The exercise of this right. c. The official document communicating the rejection and the reasons for it. 2. An authoritative prohibition or rejection of a proposed or intended act. -tr.v. -toed, to-ing, -toes. 1. To prevent (a legislative bill) from becoming law by exercising the power of veto. 2. To forbid or prevent authoritatively; prohibit. [Lat., I forbid.] -ve'to er n.

vex (veks) tr.v. vexed, vex-ing, vex-es. 1. a. To irritate or annoy, bother: vexed by his daughter's constant talking. b. To bring physical discomfort to: His sprained ankle vexed him all night. 2. To baffle; puzzle. 3. To talk about or debate at length: a vexed question. 4. To toss about or shake

up. [ME vexen < OFr. vexer < Lat. vexare.] —vex'ed-ly (věk'sīd-lē) adv. —vex'er n. —vex'ing-ly adv. vex-a-tion (věk-sã'shən) n. 1. The act of vexing. 2. The state or condition of being vexed; annoyance. 3. A source of irritation or appropriate the state of the stat tation or annoyance.

vex-a-tious (vek-sa'shos) adj., 1. Causing or creating vexation; annoying. 2. Full of vexation; annoyed. 3, Intended to vex or annoy. —vex-a'tious-ly adv. —vex-a'tious-ness n. vex-ii-la (vek-sii's) n. Plural of vexilium.

vex-il-lar-y (věk'sə-lēr'ē) n., pl. -ies. 1. A member of the oldest class of army veterans who served under a special standard in ancient Rome: 2. A standard-bearer [Lat. vexillarius < vexillum, flag, dim, of velum, a covering.] vexillate (věk'sə-lit, -lāt') adj. Having a vexillum. vexillum (věk-sil'əm) n., pl. -ll-la (-sil'ə), 1. Bot. A usually enlarged upper petal of certain flowers; standard. 2. Zool.

The weblike part of a feather; vane. [Lat., flag, dim. of velum, a covering.]

V format n. Computer Sci. A method of presenting dataprocessor output in such a way as to begin each record with an indication of its length.

via (vi'a, ve'a) prep. 1. By way of: went to Pittsburgh via Philadelphia. 2. By means of: sent the letter via airmail. [Lat., ablative of via, road.]

vi-a-ble (vi'a-bal) adj. 1. Capable of living, as a newborn infant or fetus reaching a stage of development that will permit it to survive and develop under normal conditions. 2. Capable of living, developing, or germinating under favorable conditions. 3. Capable of success or continuing efvoi a le continuins. 3. Capanie oi success or continuing enfectiveness; practicable: a viable national economy. [Fr. < OFr. < vie, | life < Lat., vita.] — vi'a-bil'i-ty n. — vi'a-bil y adv. Vi-a Do-lo-ro-sa (vi'a do'la-ro'sa, vo'a) n. 1. Jesus' route from Pilate's judgment hall to Golgotha. 2. A difficult course or experience. [Lat., road of sorrow.]

vi-a-duct (yī'a-dūkt') n. A series of spans or arches used to carry a road or railroad over a wide valley or over other

roads or railroads. [Lat. via, road + (AQUA)DUCT.]. vi-al (vi'al) n. A small container, usually with a closure, used esp. for liquids. —tr.v. -aled, -al-lng, -als or -alled, -al-ling, -als. To put or keep in or as if in a vial. [ME viole, var. of fiol. —see phial.]

vi·a me·di·a (vī'ə mē'dē-ə, mĕd'ē-ə, mā'dē-ə, vē'ə) n. A middle course or way. [Lat.] vi-and (vi'and) n. 1. a. An article of food. b. A very choice

or delicious dish. 2. viands. Provisions; victuals. [ME viaunde < OFr. viande < VLat. *vivanda, var. of Lat. vivenda, neuter pl. gerund. of vivere, to live.]

vi·at·ic (vī-at'īk) also vi·at·i·cal (-ī-kəl) adj. Of or pertaining to traveling, a road, or a way. [Lat. viaticus < via, road.] viaticum (vī-āt'ī-kəm, vē-) n., pl. -ca (-kə) or -cums. 1. Ec-

of death 2. Supplies for a journey. [Lat., traveling proj. aying person or one in danger sions < viaticus, viatic.]

sions < viaticus, viatic.]

vibes (vibz) pl.n. 1. Informal. A vibraphone. 2. Slang. A di

tinctive emotional reaction; vibrations. [Shortened variety vi-brac-u-lum (vī-brāk'yə-ləm) n., pl. la (-la). One of

long; whiplike filaments on the surface of certain bryggon colonies. [NLat. < Lat. vibrare, to shake.] —vi-brac ulargo

vi-brac'u-loid adj.

vi-brac'u-loid adj.

vi-bra-harp (vi-bra-harp') n. A vibraphone.

vi-brant (vi-brant) adj. 1. Exhibiting, characterized by or possibling from vibration; vibrating. 2. Pulsing or throbbing with energy or activity: a vibrant personality. —vi'brancon

vi-bra-phone (vi'bra-fon') n. A musical instrument similar to a marimba but having metal bars and rotating disks in the resonators to produce a vibrato. [VIBRA(TE) + .PHONE] vi'bra phon'ist n...

vi-brate (vi'brat') v. -brated, -brating, -brates. -intr. move back and forth rapidly. 2. To produce a sound reconate. 3. To be moved emotionally; thrill: vibrate with excite ment. 4. To fluctuate or waver in making choices; vacillate—tr. 1. To cause to tremble or quiver. 2. To cause to more back and forth rapidly. 3. To produce (sound) by vibration

Lat. vibrare, vibrat.]

vi-bra-tile (vi'bra-tl.+(ill') adj. 1. Characterized by vibraton 2. Capable of or adapted to vibratory motion. [Fr.] at vibrare, to vibrate.] —vi'bra-till't-ty (-till'1-tè) n.

vi-bra-tion (vi-bra'shan) n. 1. The act of vibrating. 2 libraton (vi-bra'shan) n. 1. The act of vibrating. 2 libraton (vi-bra'shan) n. 1. The act of vibrating. 2 libraton of being vibrated. 3. Physics. a. A rapid. libraton to of a particle or of an elastic solid about an equilibrium position. b. A periodic process. 4. A single complete rium position. b. A periodic process. 4. A single complete vibrating motion; quiver. 5. vibrations. Slang. A distinctive emotional aura or atmosphere capable of being instinctively sensed or experienced; vibes. —vi-bra'tion-al adj.

vi-bra-tive (vi'bra-tiv) adj. Vibratory.
vi-bra-to (va-bra'tō, ve-) n.; pl.-tos. Mus. A tremulgustor pulsating effect produced in an instrumental or vocal septence. by barely perceptible minute and rapid variations in pich [Ital. < Lat. vibratus, p.part. of vibrare, to vibrate.] _ eabil vibrator (vi'brā'tər). n. 1. Something that: vibrates, 2. 30 electrically operated device used for massage. 3. An electrical device consisting basically of a vibrating conductor in-

terrupting a current. vi-bra-to-ry (vī'bra-tôr'ē, -tōr'ē) adj. 1. Of, characterized by or consisting of vibration. 2. Causing vibration. 3. Vibrat-

vibrio (vib'rē-ō') n., pl. -os. Any of various S-shaped or comma-shaped microorganisms of the genus Vibrio, esp. d. comma, which causes cholera. [NLat. Vibrio, genus names vibrare, to vibrate (from their vibratory motion).] oid' (-oid') adj.

vib-ri-o-sis (vib'rē-ō'sīs):n.,pl. -ses (-sēz') A disease squed by vibrios.

by vibrios.

vi-bris-sa (vī-brīs'ə, və-) n., pl. -bris-sae (-brīs'ē). A stiff hair or hairlike projection, as a nostril hair, one of the whiskers of a cat, or one of the modified feathers near the beak of an insectivorous bird. [Lat. vibrissae (pl.) < vibrare, to vibrate) vi-bron-ic (vī-bron-ik) adj. Of or pertaining to change molecular energy states resulting from vibrational energy

[VIBR(ATION) + (ELECTR)ONIC.]

vi-bur-num (vi-bur-nəm) n. Any of various shrubs or uses the genus Viburnum, characteristically having clusters. small white flowers and berrylike red or black fruit [N] Viburnum, genus name < Lat. viburnum, the wayfaring vis-vic-ar (vik'ar) n. 1. In the Church of England, the priestof parish who receives a stipend or salary but does not receive the tithes of a parish. 2. In the Episcopal Church of the company United States, a clergyman in charge of a chapel. 3 19 44 Anglican Communion generally, a clergyman acting in place of a rector or bishop. 4. Rom. Cath. Ch. A clergyman who acts for or represents another, often higher ranking member of the clergy. [ME < OFr. vicaire < Lat. vicarius]

substitute < vicarius, vicarious < vicis, change.] vic:ar:age (vik'or-ij) n. 1. The residence of a vicar. 3. The duties or office of a vicar. 3. The duties or office of a vicar. 4. vicar apostolic n., pl. vicars apostolic. Rom. Cath. Ch. 10. titular bishop who administers a region that is not year diocese as a representative of the Holy See. 2. A titular bishop appointed to administer to a vacant see in which the succession of bishops has been interrupted. 3. A bishop of archbishop formerly delegated by the pope to act in the

stead in a particular region.

vicariate (vik'or-it. -o-rāt') n. A vicariate:

vicar fo-rane (fô-rān', fô-) n, pl. vicars torane. Rom. Cath.

Ch. A priest who by a bishop's appointment exercises the ited jurisdiction over the clergy in a district of a diocest [Med. Lat. foranus, foreign < Lat. foras, outside.]

Wicar general n, pl. vicars general. 1. Rom. Cath. Ch. appriest acting as deputy to a bishop to assist him in the priest acting as deputy to a bishop to assist him in the ministration of his diocese. b. The head of a religious order 2. An ecclesiastical official in the Church of England ally a layman, who assists an archbishop or bishop in ministrative and judicial duties. vi-car-i-al (vī-kar'ē-əl, -kar'-, vī-) adj. 1. Of or relating 10.2

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